

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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STATE FOR EUR/EE, CU/EE, INR; USIA FOR IEU

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TAGS: OEXC, PDIP, PINR, BU (VELICHKOV, BOGOMIL)

SUBJECT: NEW GOB CULTURAL ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON

REF: SOFIA 1787

1. BOGOMIL VELICHKOV, NOW ASSIGNED TO MFA PROTOCOL DEPT, HAS ADVISED HE LEAVES SAT 11 OCT FOR WASHINGTON TO BECOME GOB CULTURAL ATTACHE. VELICHKOV WILL REPLACE ZHELIYAZKO DIMITROV, WHO REPORTEDLY LEFT WASHINGTON ABOUT MONTH AGO AND, FOLLOWING CURRENT VACATION, WILL TAKE UNNAMED POSITION IN SOFIA.

2. EMBASSY HAS HAD LIMITED BUT CORDIAL DEALINGS WITH VELICHKOV, WHO WAS PARTICULARLY COOPERATIVE AND HELPFUL DURING RECENT VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL. VELICHKOV, 33, SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. HE HAS TWO SMALL CHILDREN.

3. ACCORDING TO AMEMB THE HAGUE A-886 SEPT 24, 1968, VELICHKOV "WAS CLEARLY THE STAR" AMONG SMALL NUMBER OF EAST EUROPEANS AT AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR DIPLOMATS DURING SUMMER 1968. THAT AIRGRAM PRAISED HIS PERSONAL QUALITIES (AN ASSESSMENT SUPPORTED BY OUR CONTACT WITH HIM) AND BROAD KNOWLEDGE.

4. VELICHKOV IS MARRIED TO RUSSIAN-BORN WOMAN, A
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MATHEMATICIAN, AND STUDIED SIX YEARS (1962-68) AT MOSCOW'S

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS; HIS SPECIALTY
SUPPOSEDLY WAS LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS. STILL, HIS VISA
APPLICATION SHOWS FOREIGN SERVICE ONLY IN STOCKHOLM (1970-74).

5. P&C OFFICER GAVE VELICHKOV NAMES OF YALE RICHMOND
(CU/EE) AND R. ELLSWORTH MILLER (USIA/IEU) AS INITIAL
CONTACTS IN USG BUREAUCRACY. VELICHKOV SAID HE EXPECTS
PARTICIPATE IN PART OF WASHINGTON PROGRAM FOR IVP GRANTEE
EVGENIYA KAMOVA (SOFIA 1886, PARA 1).

6. COMMENT: WE HOPE VELICHKOV WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE
THAN DIMITROV, DECREASING OR ELIMINATING OCCASIONS ON
WHICH BULGARIANS SEEK EMBASSY'S SUPPORT FOR GOB CULTURAL
EFFORTS IN U.S. DIMITROV WAS HAMPERED BY POOR ENGLISH
AND FACT THAT HIS EMBASSY WAS UNDERSTAFFED DURING MUCH OF
HIS WASHINGTON TOUR; WE UNDERSTAND HE ALSO DID MUCH POLITICAL
WORK. WE KNOW VELICHKOV WILL BE OFFERED ALL REASONABLE
ASSISTANCE BY USIA AND CU. THIS COULD ALSO SMOOTH PATH FOR
SOME OF OUR EFFORTS HERE.

FELDMAN

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